liquid state to said oral or dermal medicinal composition, followed by cooling to solidify the thermoplastic coating and binding agent, wherein said thermoplastic coating and binding agent consists ~~essentially~~ of a non-homogenous mixture of, based on 100% by weight of A and B:

A) 5-95% of a thermoplastic acrylic plastic with a melting temperature above room temperature and below 200°C, a glass transition temperature below 120°C, and a melt viscosity of 1,000 to 1,000,000 Pa-sec at the melting temperature; and

B) 95-5 wt% of a flow improver, which, at room temperature, is not compatible with the thermoplastic acrylic plastic, has a melting temperature above room temperature but below 200°C, a weight average molecular weight under 20,000 d, and a melt viscosity below 100 Pa·sec at the melting temperature of the acrylic plastic.

18. (Twice Amended) An oral or dermal medicinal composition containing a pharmaceutical active substance and a thermoplastic coating and binding agent prepared by the method [of Claim 3] as defined in Claim 17, wherein the thermoplastic acrylic plastic A is a copolymer of esters of acrylic and/or methacrylic acid.

19. (Twice Amended) An oral or dermal medicinal composition containing a pharmaceutical active substance and a thermoplastic coating and binding agent prepared by the method [and binding agent of Claim 5] as defined in Claim 17, wherein the thermoplastic acrylic plastic A is a copolymer of alkyl esters of acrylic and/or methacrylic acid and functional comonomers with covalently bound cationic groups.

20. (Twice Amended) An oral or dermal medicinal composition containing a pharmaceutical active substance and a thermoplastic coating and binding agent prepared by the method [of Claim 7] as defined in Claim 17, wherein the thermoplastic acrylic plastic A is a copolymer of 5 to 99 wt% alkyl esters of acrylic and/or methacrylic acid and 95 to 1 wt% aminoalkyl esters ~~of~~ or aminoalkylamides ~~of~~ or acrylic and/or methacrylic acid or their salts or quaternary ammonium compounds thereof.

21. (Amended) An oral or dermal medicinal composition containing a pharmaceutical active substance and a thermoplastic coating and binding agent prepared by the method [of Claim 9] as defined in Claim 17, wherein flow improver B is a fatty alcohol, a fatty acid, an ester of a fatty alcohol and a fatty acid, a sugar, an ester thereof, a fatty acid mono-, di- or triglyceride, a polyethylene glycol, a fatty acid ester or fatty alcohol ether thereof, a wax, or mixtures of any of the above.

22. (Amended) An oral or dermal medicinal composition containing a pharmaceutical active substance and a thermoplastic coating and binding agent prepared by the method [of Claim 11] as defined in Claim 18, wherein a flow improver B is a fatty alcohol, a fatty acid, an ester of a fatty alcohol and a fatty acid, a sugar, an ester thereof, a fatty acid mono-, di- or triglyceride, a polyethylene glycol, a fatty acid ester or fatty alcohol ether thereof, a wax, or mixtures of any of the above.

23. (Amended) An oral or dermal medicinal composition containing a pharmaceutical active substance and a thermoplastic coating and binding agent prepared by the method [of Claim 13] as defined in Claim 19, wherein the flow improver B is a fatty

alcohol, a fatty acid, an ester of a fatty alcohol and a fatty acid, a sugar, an ester thereof, a fatty acid mono-, di- or triglyceride, a polyethylene glycol, a fatty acid ester or fatty alcohol ether thereof, a wax, or mixtures of any of the above.

E' Cont'd

24. (Amended) An oral or dermal medicinal composition containing a pharmaceutical active substance and a thermoplastic coating and binding agent prepared by the method [of Claim 15] as defined in Claim 20, wherein the flow improver B is a fatty alcohol, a fatty acid, an ester of a fatty alcohol and a fatty acid, a sugar, an ester thereof, a fatty acid mono-, di- or triglyceride, a polyethylene glycol, a fatty acid ester or fatty alcohol ether thereof, a wax, or mixtures of any of the above.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

The elected Claims 17-24 have been rewritten to be independent of the method claims of the non-elected invention.

The kind suggestion made by the Examiner to more particularly define the molecular weight as being the weight average basis has been adopted. This is consistent with the specification at page 6, lines 9 to 11.

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment and favorable reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17 to 24 are in the case.